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27 September 1955

STATUS REPORT ON EAST GERMANY

- I. Since Adenauer's Moscow visit USSR has placed major emphasis on enhancing East German republic's international standing.
  - A. Soviet efforts have purpose of gaining for East Germany recognition as state equal to German Federal Republic.
    1. USSR and East Germany state that German reunification to be achieved through negotiations by two Germanies.
- II. Most important result of Moscow treaty so far has been the amendment to the East German constitution permitting the establishment of armed forces.
- III. East German armed forces - called garrisoned peoples police - presently number 100,000.
  - A. No immediate increase in this number is expected. Deputy Premier Stoph, who probably will be named Minister of Defense, on 26 September said there would be no conscription.
    1. Such increase would be inconsistent with recent reduction in Soviet and Satellite armed forces.
    2. Stepped-up recruiting would undoubtedly bring sharp increases in defections to West of persons in military age group.
- IV. Refugee flow to West has sharply increased since Soviet Bloc military organization established at Warsaw last May.
  - A. Weekly refugee flow, as well as that of military age group,

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NO CHANGE IN CLASS. ☐

☒ DECLASSIFIED

CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C

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is at highest level since June 1953. Week of 9-15 September,

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total of 4558, 1360 of military age.

- V. Treaty, however, adds little to sovereignty trappings already given East Germany by 25 March 1954 Protocol, but has purpose of enhancing German Democratic Republic's prestige.
- A. Places East Germany in status comparable to that of Eastern European Satellites.
- B. Treaty will be used to attempt to force recognition from Western powers, particularly West Germany.
1. East Germany has been given the right to regulate all communications and transport, including air, between Federal Republic and West Berlin, except goods and persons of American, British and French garrisons in divided city.
  2. East Germany also will "exercise control and guard frontiers of the GDR...within Berlin," presumably reference to border between Soviet and Western sectors.
    - a. This provision may presage East Berlin's formal absorption by GDR.
- C. While East Germany can be expected to assert its new authority in efforts to gain West German recognition there will probably not be any immediate threat to Allied access to Berlin.
1. East Germany may call upon United States, Britain and France to negotiate government-level agreements for commercial air access to West Berlin.

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VI. East Germany has been given maximum credit by USSR for German prisoner release.

- A. Although communiqué issued at conclusion of East German-Soviet talks gave equal credit to two Germanies for prisoner releases, USSR stated releases had been negotiated with East Germany prior to Adenauer visit.
- B. Since the Moscow talks the USSR has returned about 20 German prisoners.

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